

**In the United States Patent and Trademark Office**

Applicants: A. L. Fletcher et al. Docket 11712  
Serial No.: 09/444,083 Group: 3761  
Filed: 11/22/99 Examiner: J. Stephens  
For: Absorbent Articles With Date: December 5, 2002  
Refastenable Side Seams

**Amendment****RECEIVED**

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Sir:

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed August 5, 2002 (Paper No. 17). This Amendment is timely because it is accompanied by a petition for a one-month extension of time.

Please amend the application as follows:

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**In the Claims**

Please **cancel** claim 21.

Please **amend** claims 22 and 23 as follows:

*Swb* 22. (Once Amended) The absorbent article of claim 21, An absorbent article, comprising:

an absorbent chassis defining a longitudinal axis, a transverse axis, first and second waist edges parallel to the transverse axis, opposite side edges extending between the first and second waist edges, a first waist region contiguous with the first waist edge, a second waist region contiguous with the second waist edge, and a crotch region which extends between and interconnects the first and second waist regions, the absorbent chassis comprising:

a rectangular composite structure having opposite linear side edges parallel to the longitudinal axis and opposite linear end edges parallel to the transverse axis, the composite structure comprising a bodyside liner, an outer cover bonded to the bodyside liner, and an absorbent assembly disposed between the bodyside liner and the outer cover;